

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – September 16, 2013**

Mayor Allen *calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mayor J. Allen, Deputy Mayor B. Muir, Mr. T. Auriemma, Mrs. B. Fort, Mr. F. Gatti

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Mekovetz, Attorney S. Dragan

ABSENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Museums.....	Personnel.....	Certain information at the discretion of Township Committee tonight...other information will remain confidential
Police Department.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Construction Code.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Environmental Commission.....	Personnel.....	“ “ “
Lieutenants / PBA Local No. 317...	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Board of Education..... Shared Services Agreement	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Transco Pipeline Reimbursement.... Agreement	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Executive Session Minutes.....	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“ “ “

- September 3, 2013

Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33;
Block 56, Lots 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39,
Lot 24 & Block 67, Lot 2
(Solberg Aviation)..... Litigation..... “ “ “

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A.”

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Allen led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

Personnel / Museums

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Auriemma to accept the resignation of Kimberly Costa, Museum Director, effective September 16, 2013 and send her a letter of thanks for her service, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to promote Margaret Smith to Acting Museum Director for 20 hours per week at a salary of \$20/hour, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Allen	- Aye

Personnel / Police Department

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gatti to promote Vincent Corsentino to the rank of Sergeant 1st Class, effective September 20, 2013, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Allen	- Aye

Personnel / Police Department

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to accept the resignation of Patrolman Robert Quinlan, effective September 30, 2013, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Personnel / Construction Code

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to hire Daniel S. Palka as part time Electrical Sub-Code Official for 24 hours per week at a rate of \$28 per hour and increase his salary to \$32 per hour after successfully completing the six month probationary period, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma - Aye
Mrs. Fort - Aye
Mr. Gatti - Aye
Mrs. Muir - Aye
Mayor Allen - Aye

Personnel / Environmental Commission

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to appoint William Flynn to the Environmental Commission for a three year term to expire 12/31/15, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma - Aye
Mrs. Fort - Aye
Mr. Gatti - Aye
Mrs. Muir - Aye
Mayor Allen - Aye

Contract Negotiations / Lieutenants / PBA Local No. 317

Mayor Allen stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Board of Education / Shared Services Agreement

Mayor Allen stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Transco Pipeline Reimbursement Agreement

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Muir to approve the agreement as written with the recommended changes by Attorney Dragan, seconded by Mrs. Fort and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma - Aye
Mrs. Fort - Aye
Mr. Gatti - Aye
Mrs. Muir - Aye
Mayor Allen - Aye

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / September 3, 2013

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 3, 2013 for content only, seconded by Mr. Auriemma with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Litigation / Solberg Aviation / Block 48, Lot 23; Block 55, Lot 33; Block 56, Lot 1, 3, 6 & 8; Block 39, Lot 24 and Block 67, Lot 2

Mayor Allen stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Allen read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk “*” are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- * 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meeting of September 3, 2013
- * 2. **Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Improvements to Ridge Road Project**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2013-90

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO RIDGE ROAD PROJECT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application as identified as MA-2014-Readington Township-00157 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Readington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Readington Township and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

- * 3. **Permit Fee Refund** (Block 48, Lot 1.02 / 4 Forty Second Street)
- * 4. **Permit Fee Refund** (Block 66, Lot 19.03 / 5 Hendrick Road) and (Block 70, Lot 38.03 / 4 Hageman Road)
- * 5. **Payment of Bills** – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
CURRENT FUND	2-01	\$ 298,979.69
TRUST FUNDS	X-03	\$ 134,006.05
MISC REFUND, COUNTY TAX, LIENS	X-05	\$ 16,227.05
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 133,484.00
2010 CAPITAL	X-10	\$ 2,952.00
2012 CAPITAL	X-12	\$ <u>9,140.46</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 594,789.25

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Fort to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Auriemma and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Auriemma - Aye
- Mrs. Fort - Aye
- Mr. Gatti - Aye
- Mrs. Muir - Aye
- Mayor Allen - Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated August 27, 2013 from Sally J. Cheong, Manager, Tariff Activity, Rates and Regulatory Affairs – NJ, regarding *Notice of Proposed Increase in Societal Benefits Charge and Notice of Public Hearings, Jersey Central Power and Light Company*. No action taken.
2. Memorandum dated August 28, 2013 from Roberta Brassard, Municipal Clerk, Township of Tewksbury regarding *An Ordinance of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of NJ, to Amend, Revise and Supplement Section 702.2 of Article VII of the Development Regulations Ordinance of the Township of Tewksbury to Amend Said Regulations Pertaining to Generators and Air Conditioning System Compressors and An Ordinance of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, State of NJ, to Amend, Revise and Supplement Article VII “Zoning Provisions,” of the Development Regulations Ordinance and to Revise Section 706 “Exceptions.”* No action taken.
3. Public Notice from Walter Wilson, Esq., Attorney for Applicant, Clinton Agricultural Associates, LLC regarding *Application to the Hunterdon County Agricultural Development Board for Approval for Specific Agricultural Management Practices upon Property in the ROC Zone District of Clinton Township and Located at 1011 US Highway Route 22*. No action taken.
4. Memorandum dated September 10, 2013 from Christine Dispenza, Municipal Clerk, Township of Bethlehem regarding *Resolution in Opposition to Jersey Central Power & Light Company Petition for a Rate Increase*. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #08-2012 Providing for the Acquisition of a Public Access Easement on a Portion of Block 66, Lot 24 in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey*

Mayor Allen recused herself from this matter. Deputy Mayor Muir stated that this ordinance amends a previously written ordinance to donate a public access easement by the Allens.

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #08-2012 PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT ON A PORTION OF BLOCK 66, LOT 24 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE# 19-2013

WHEREAS, the Township Committee previously adopted Ordinance #08-2012 on February 21, 2012, providing for the acquisition of a 20’ wide public access easement (consisting of approximately .535+/- acres), via donation, on a portion of Block 66, Lot 24 in the Township of Readington (hereinafter the “Property”) owned by Richard and Julia Allen, hereinafter, “Owner”; and

WHEREAS, at the time of its adoption, the language of the public access easement authorized by said ordinance was not yet finalized and approved; and

WHEREAS, the public access easement language has since been finalized and agreed to by both the Township Committee and Owner and is on file with the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board recommended the Township’s acquisition of the proposed access easement because, among other things, it will allow the public to cross from one open space parcel to another in the cluster of open space properties in Block 66 known as “The Cole Road Greenway” and will thus provide an important connection needed to complete the Township’s grant- funded recreational trail system; and

Ordinance #19-2013 cont'd:

WHEREAS, the Township is authorized to acquire interests in Property for public purposes, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et. seq., and any other applicable law; and

WHEREAS, while the parties intend that no motorized vehicles be utilized by the public on the Property encompassing the public access easement, it is also acknowledged that the Property is used for agricultural purposes and that a portion is subject to a previously existing utility easement for the benefit of PSE&G.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey as follows (new language is indicated thus _____):

SECTION 1. The Township of Readington shall acquire and accept a 20' wide Access Easement ("Easement") on a .535+/- acre portion of property known as Block 66, Lot 24 on the official tax map of the Township of Readington as offered to be donated by the Owner Richard and Julia Allen. The access easement may be developed for trail purposes for use by pedestrians, as well as those on horseback. However, unauthorized motor vehicles shall be prohibited with the exception of farm vehicles, PSE&G maintenance vehicles and emergency vehicles. The aforesaid Easement shall run with the land.

SECTION 2. On behalf of the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, the Deputy Mayor, Township Administrator/Clerk and Township Attorney, as appropriate, are authorized to prepare and execute any and all documentation necessary to effectuate the acceptance of the aforementioned Easement from the Owner.

SECTION 3. If the provision of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such Order or Judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any such article, section, subsection, paragraph or clause, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication according to law.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Gatti and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Auriemma	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye
Mr. Gatti	- Aye
Mrs. Muir	- Aye
Mayor Allen	- Abstained

The Public Hearing was scheduled for October 7, 2013 at 7:45 p.m.

2. ***Request to Rezone Block 32, Lot 9 and Block 31, Lot 46 from the Current Split Zone of Village Residential/Village Commercial to Village Residential*** – memo dated September 10, 2013 from Linda Jacukowicz, Planning Board Coordinator

Mayor Allen stated that there is a written memo from the Township Planner to rezone Block 32, Lot 9 and Block 31, Lot 46 from the current split zone of Village Residential / Village Commercial to 100% Village Residential.

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fort to authorize Attorney Dragan to draft this request into ordinance form and also follow the required notification procedure, seconded by Mrs. Muir with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

- * 3. ***Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Improvements to Ridge Road Project***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 4. ***Permit Fee Refund*** (Block 48, Lot 1.02 / 4 Forty Second Street)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

- * 5. ***Permit Fee Refund*** (Block 66, Lot 19.03 / 5 Hendrick Road) and (Block 70, Lot 38.03 / 4 Hageman Road)

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Mekovetz reported that she received a letter today regarding Whitehouse Mechanicsville Historic District application which is being considered by the NJ State review board for nomination to the NJ National Register of Historic Places. Administrator Mekovez continued that a Community meeting will be held at the Municipal Building on October 29th at 7:30 p.m.

Administrator Mekovetz also reported that all the invoices have been submitted for the debris removal from Hurricane Sandy for reimbursement from FEMA.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dragan stated that she had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Julia Allen

Mayor Allen reported that the Planning Board approved a phasing plan for the construction of Toll's senior development on Route 22.

Thomas Auriemma

Mr. Auriemma reported that he was informed by Recreation Director Gabrielle Bolarakis that the tennis courts have reached the end of their life. Mr. Auriemma discussed several proposals for repair or replacement and requested that Administrator Mekovetz distribute the information to the other Committee members for further discussion.

Mr. Auriemma also reported that the Fall Readington Recreation brochure is now online. Mrs. Fort commended Director Bolarakis on expanding the recreation program to all ages through various activities.

Betty Ann Fort

Mrs. Fort reported that Public Works Director Scott Jesseman has worked up cost estimates for repairing the sidewalks in the South Honeyman development by 1) removing and replacing concrete or 2) removing concrete and replacing with asphalt. Mrs. Fort added that she consulted with Township Planner Michael Sullivan for some other alternatives.

Frank Gatti

Mr. Gatti stated that he had nothing further to report.

Beatrice Muir

Mrs. Muir reported that there is a low income unit currently under contract and there are also several moderate units available.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Wayne Borella, 110 Foothill Road, requested an update on the status tarring and chipping Foothill Road.

Tom Bridegum, 111 Foothill Road, stated that he supports the chip and seal process of Foothill Road and suggested that the speed limit be reduced from 25 to 15 miles per hour for safety reasons and general preservation of the road.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made by Mrs. Muir at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Fort with vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Municipal Clerk